THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Interlinking of Southern rivers is proposed under the Peninsular river development component of National Perspectives formulated by the Government.

(b) It is proposed to link Mahanadi to Godavari; Godavari to Krishna; Krishna to Cauvery and Cauvery to Vaigai. Also linking of the west flowing Pamba and Achankovil with the east flowing Vaigai for supplying water to the drought prone areas is proposed.

(c) and (d) The proposals are discussed at the different stages of formulation in the Technical and Administrative Committees in which the concerned States are also represented and they are modified according to the suggestions received from the States. The pre-feasibility report on the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai link has been sent to the States and further discussions are being held with them.

Courier Service in Private Sector

2277. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Courier Service in Private Sector have grown up rapidly during the last few years;

(b) whether the speed post service has also been expanded during the same period;

(c) if so, the salient feature of the speed post service; and

(d) the details of the cooperation between Private Sector and the Department of posts to further boost its functioning for the benefit of the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of the existence of Private Courier Services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Speed Post Service was introduced on 1-8-86 initially in 7 cities. Since then this service has been expanded to 60 cities under domestic speed post service and 48 countries under international speed post service.

(c) Speed Post Service is a guaranteed and time-bound delivery service and has the following unique features:

(i) *Free Pick up Service*

(ii) *Book your own article scheme*: Customer grants his own receipt and copies thereof alongwith articles are handed over to the representative of Department.

(iii) *Book Now Pay later facility*: Booking of articles without prepayment and settlement of bills on weekly basis.

(iv) *Pay Back facility*: Refund of speed post fee in case of non-delivery within the time guaranteed.

(d) Private Couriers work independently. There is no cooperation between them and the Department of Post.

[*Translation*]

Closing of Return Letter Office in Jaipur, Rajasthan

2278. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Return Letter Office in Jaipur, Rajasthan was closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present policy of the Government in respect of closing or opening of Return Letter Offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is a Returned Letter Office for every Postal Circle exclusively or commonly with one or more neighbouring Circles. The Government has no plan either to close any Returned Letter Office or to open any new office.

Share of Rajasthan from Tehri Dam Waters

2279. SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to expedite the matter relating to share of Rajasthan from Tehri Dam waters: and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan made a reference to the Union Government to persuade the Government of Uttar Pradesh to allocate 10% of Tehri Dam Project Waters for areas in Rajasthan. The matter was accordingly taken up with the Government of Uttar Pradesh who informed the Government of Rajasthan in July, 1988 as also to this Ministry in September, 1988, that in view of commitments of Ganga Waters at Tehri Dam Project, it did not appear possible to supply waters to areas in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Government was advised in October, 1988 to bring up the matter before the Inter-State Meeting on Yamuna. The meeting of the Standing Committee on Inter-State issues in Water Resources to discuss the Yamuna dispute was held in September, 1990 but this issue did not come up for discussion.

[*English*]

Riot Control Vehicles

2280. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether riot control vehicles manufactured by a Bombay-based firm in collaboration with some Austrian Company are in use in certain parts of the country like Kashmir; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to acquire such vehicles on a large scale for supply to States to control riots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Law and order is a 'State' subject and it is for the State Governments to use the equipment of their choice to maintain law and order. The Government of India has no information about the types of vehicles being used by the State Governments.

Fencing on Indo-Bangladesh Border

2281. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the fencing of the International border between India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether there is any dispute with Bangladesh on the fencing issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF